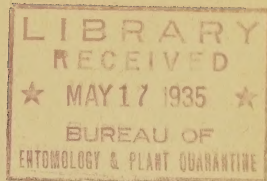


1.94  
ad 4/1 al

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION  
Washington, D. C.



February 27, 1935.

ALFALFA HAY AND ALFALFA MEAL IN WEEVIL INFESTED  
AREAS; THEIR RELATION TO FEEDING NEEDS IN THE  
DROUGHT AREA.

The Agricultural Adjustment Administration has recently received requests to give consideration to the subject of the possibility of moving hay from the quarantined areas of the Mountain and Pacific Coast States into States in the drought area. The requests have been of two general characters: First, that we explore the possibilities of securing markets for such hay, and secondly, that we invite the cooperation of the western railroads by asking for the publication of temporary reduced rates.

Despite our active and sympathetic interest in the matter of aiding all branches of agriculture, there are certain very definite obstacles which would seem to militate against a satisfactory compliance with these requests.

STATE QUARANTINES AGAINST HAY.

The individual States have their own regulations with respect to the importation of agricultural products, and these regulations have been gathered together in the U. S. Department of Agriculture's publication titled "Summary of State and Territorial Plant Quarantine Affecting Interstate Shipments". That publication, insofar as it deals with the subject of quarantine regulations against alfalfa hay and alfalfa meal indicates that it is extremely doubtful that alfalfa hay could be moved in any appreciable quantities from the quarantined areas into the drought area.

An examination of the quarantine regulations of such important drought States as Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri and Oklahoma shows that all have very definite prohibitions or restrictions governing the importation from quarantined areas, with the one exception of the State of North Dakota which apparently has established no restrictions.



Importation of hay from infected areas seems to be strictly prohibited by the States of Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri and Oklahoma; and these same States only permit the importation of alfalfa meal from the quarantined sections only when shipments of such meal are covered by special certificates or permits. The State of South Dakota seems to go farther and not only prohibits the importation of hay but likewise prohibits the importation of alfalfa meal and any mixtures containing the meal grown, ground or stored in any infected district. Minnesota strictly prohibits the importation of hay; prohibits the importation of meal entirely during the period of April to October, inclusive; and during other months permits entry of meal only under permits. Montana forbids the entry of hays of all kinds and cereal straws from quarantined territory except that 'salt-grass packing' hay is admitted under certain specifications.

Reviewing this summary of the quarantine regulations it is seen that even with respect to alfalfa meal, namely ground alfalfa, importation is only permitted under rigid supervision and under special certificates. This is pointed out because we have been asked to interest ourselves in the movement of chopped hay in bales. If alfalfa meal, which we understand is usually loaded into freight cars in sacks or is blown directly into the cars, is only permitted entry into drought states under rigid supervision and under special certificates it would seem doubtful, at least, that such States would permit the entry of chopped hay in bales.

#### FREIGHT RATES

With respect to the other phase of the subject, namely, the possibility of securing reduced freight rates for the movement of hay from the quarantined areas, it may be stated that while the railroads of the West as a whole have been cooperative and sympathetic in the matter of assisting those in the drought area, we are advised that they would be adverse to a reduction in rates to cover alfalfa meal or the so-called chopped hay. The alfalfa meal they view as a mixed feed ingredient, which like a number of other mixed feed ingredients carry certain mixing-in-transit privileges. The railroads advise that any reduction in one character of feed ingredient would inevitably result in demands for reduction in rates on other ingredients with a resulting depletion in their revenues which they do not feel they could stand.

#### SALES RESISTANCE

Even were it possible to expect an appreciable number of the Western States to lift their restrictions against hay and meal from the quarantined areas and granting that following such action a





temporary reduction in freight rates might be secured, it still must be conceded that a certain amount of "sales resistance" on the part of individuals and localities would be encountered in any efforts to introduce hay from the infected areas into the drought States. A timely illustration of what might be expected in this respect is covered by the enclosure, hereto, which is an article from the Lincoln Nebraska Star of February 23, 1935.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip G. Murphy,  
Chief,  
Commodities Purchase Section.

Enclosure



ARTICLE IN THE LINCOLN (NEBR.) STAR - FEBRUARY 23, 1935

BURNING ALFALFA.

The burning of a carload of alfalfa near Eddyville in Dawson county is of interest not only to the people of that vicinity, but to all of Nebraska. The hay had been imported from Idaho between the date that the ban on Idaho alfalfa was lifted by Governor Bryan and its restoration by Governor Cochran. The lifting of the quarantine had the effect of a number of states quarantining Nebraska alfalfa and this led to the action of Governor Cochran.

Dawson county is one of the greatest alfalfa producing counties in the United States, if not the very greatest, and the farmers of that area cannot afford to have their fields infected by the weevil. They accordingly, in conjunction with business men of Lexington raised a fund to buy the carload of feed, which was burned, the farmers who had imported it taking the money and with it purchasing native hay.

Alfalfa is the greatest crop in that section and brings in a tremendous sum of money every year. The business men in Dawson and nearby counties have an immense stake in the hay, for it is from this that they derive their incomes. And by the same token the people of the entire state have a big stake, for if the residents of that great area were deprived of their major income the remainder of Nebraska would suffer loss from lack of exchange commodities.

And it is just so with all of the products of agriculture. When the orchardists of southeastern Nebraska lose their crop or a large portion of it, business in Lincoln, Omaha and other cities and towns suffer, for inevitably a portion of the income finds its way to the various marketing places. The drouth of 1934 would have ruined not only the farmers of the state, but the business men as well, had it not been for the millions poured into the state by the way of the AAA checks.

Alfalfa was first raised in a large way in this state in Dawson and Buffalo counties and the farmers of that region have profited largely therefrom. They understand the business and they are taking no chances. That is why the bonfire took place at Eddyville.



